

**Town of Whitefield  
Select Board Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2013**

**Present: Steve McCormick, Tom Colpitt, Frank Ober Lester Sheaffer, and  
Dennis Merrill  
Administrative Assistant Aaron Miller**

**Select Board actions**

- 1. The minutes of the February 19 meeting were approved 5-0.**
- 2. Two warrants were signed.**
- 3. Plowing payments. To be more uniform in making payments to the plowing contractor, the Board voted 5-0 to use the last warrant of the month and disperse the check the first of each month.**
- 4. Road sand. Steve reported there have been more problems with metal in the sand used for the roads. The metal appears to be part of the equipment use to screen the sand. The metal has caused damage to the contractor's equipment. The pit owner – Frasier – needs to be contacted.**
- 5. Fire Department. Scott Higgins reported that things have been pretty quiet, just a few calls.**
- 6. Time-Warner. Aaron reported that Time-Warner has made payment of its 2012 franchise fee: \$2,1542.67 for about 390 subscribers in Town.**
- 7. Tax acquired property. Aaron reported the Town has foreclosed on 28 properties for non-payment of the 2010 tax bills. The total owed is about \$45,000. Of these, four are in bankruptcy and any collection will have to be through the courts. Aaron said he has contacted other towns and found that most take a more active role in pursuing delinquent accounts. Some use formal payment contracts, although these can be problematic as the town becomes more deeply involved legally than may be advisable. Others use their town lawyer to pursue payment. Poverty abatements may be useful for some taxpayers who have had temporary problems such as illness or job loss. In other cases, people may be in living situations that are beyond their long term means. These are the most difficult situations. Aaron noted some towns have policies or ordinances that set procedures addressing clearing foreclosed accounts. After discussion, the Board agreed that we should look at some of these policies. Also, we need to move forward to replace our town lawyer, Cliff Goodall, who has retired.**
- 8. Computers. Aaron reported that new computers have been purchased and will be set up on Thursday. Also, he will purchase a five computer license for Microsoft Office on a lease basis: about \$100 for a year. This covers up dates and looks to be more economical that direct purchase.**

**Assessors' Actions**

**1. The Board signed an abatement previously approved for the Brann property.**

**2. The Board met with a taxpayer who is having paying her taxes. After some discussion, she was asked to review her financial situation and come back to the Board with a proposal for getting caught up.**